inter and mixed cropping in coconut holding.

Promoting Rural Education

1288. SHRI RAHAS BIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to promote rural education;

(b) if so, the steps taken in that direction;

(c) whether Government have a proposal to set up a council for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (d) In pursuance of the National Policy on Education 1986, Government have recently established a National Council of Rural Institutes, one of the major objectives of which is to promote rural higher education on the lines of Mahatma Gandhi's revolutionary ideas on education. The Council was formally inaugurated by the Prime Minister at Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh) on December 3, 1995.

Cost and Time Over-Run Per Project in the Steel Sector

1289. SHRI KANAKSINH MOHANSINH MANGROLA:
SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the average cost over-run per project and the time over-run per project in the Steel Sector during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Losses Suffered by IDPL

1290. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL) has been suffering losses since the past several years;

(b) if so, whether he has recently visited premises of IDPL and found some discrepancies in its functioning;

(c) if so, the facts and details thereof; and

(d) the concrete measures Government propose to take to save the IDPL?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers recently visited the formulation plant of IDPL at Gurgaon with a view to acquiring, primarily, knowledge about the work environment and problems in general of the workers/employees and the management.

(d) IDPL is currently implementing a revival package approved by the BIFR. The revival period is for 10 years and the plan envisages, inter-alia, higher production/sales, reduction in the manpower cost, business restructuring etc.

Establishment of IIM And IIT in Madhya Pradesh

1291. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has requested the Union Government to establish an Indian Institute of Management and Indian Institute of Technology in the State;